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LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: ANSI B175.1 Chain Saw Subcommittee

DATE OF MEETING: March 19 & 20, 1997

PLACE: Portable Power Equipment Manufacturers Association  
4340 East West Highway  
Suite 912  
Bethesda, MD

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Murphy, ESME

DATE OF ENTRY: March 21, 1997

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

John Murphy, ESME

*JRM*

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Donald Purcell	PPEMA
Robert Stegall	Echo
Dan Ericsson	Husqvarna
Ronald Loyd	Southland Engineering Systems Inc.
Pete Finnemore	John Deere
Bernie Box	Poulan/Weed Eater
Jack Ehlen	Consultant
Manfred Bortfeld	Stihl
Martin Behrendt	Dolmar
Brian McGill	PPEMA
Jeff Sadler	Poulan/Weed Eater
Edgar Wolff-Klammer	Underwriters Laboratories
Sam Cristy	Product Safety Letter
Christine Eames	Product Safety Letter

SUMMARY OF MEETING

The meeting convened at 4:00 pm on March 19, 1997. The subcommittee reviewed and approved the minutes of the last meeting held in Bethesda on July 17, 1996. The ANSI five year review should have been accomplished in 1996. ANSI has granted the subcommittee a one year extension to complete revisions to the standard.

The committee reviewed the status of the development of a generic electric powerhead. The powerhead is being developed as an alternative test method to certify low-kickback saw chain. The current chain saw standard tests low-kickback chain on a series of chain saw powerheads that were originally intended to represent 85% of the powerheads in the market place. Over time many of the powerheads have been removed from production. Continued testing of the older powerheads has worn existing test

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units out. In 1991 the ANSI 85% list was modified by replacing older model, out of production, saws with the current production version of the saw. The 85% lists of other countries with chain saw standards using the ANSI kickback procedures have also been independently modified. The use of the generic powerhead will provide a uniform definition for low-kickback saw chain into the future. The chain saw subcommittee decided that the new test procedures for low-kickback saw chain will not be ready for incorporation into the standard for at least one year.

The committee plans to implement the following changes to the kickback test procedure:

1. Allow the addition of up to 200 grams to the actuating lever of inertial actuated chain brakes.
2. Modify the chain brake stopping time measurement sequence of tests to harmonize with ISO 6535.
3. Allow Baraboard specimens to be 3 inches x 3 inches when necessary. Currently the standard specifies that specimens must be 1 1/2 inches x 1 1/2 inches.

The changes are relatively minor changes intended to make chain saw kickback testing more efficient. These changes can be implemented relatively quickly (by December 1997).

Since the ANSI chain saw standard (ANSI B175.1-1985) is one of two standards on which the Commission has relied under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act the chain saw subcommittee would like to seek the concurrence of the Commissioners before implementing these provisions.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am on March 20.

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